

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 VO-03 SCA-01

INSE-00 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-05 FDRE-00 IO-10 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EA-06 EUR-12 /096 W

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P 010830Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3709

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 0822

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG SREF PFOR VS MR

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES

REF: STATE 97854

1. MADE ORAL DEMARCHE RE RESETTLEMENT OF VIET NAMESE REFUGEES TO ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MALOUM OULD BRAHAM APRIL 30. IN ADDITION TO POINTS OUTLINED REFTTEL, I NOTED THAT REFUGEES WERE FRENCH SPEAKING, THAT MANY WERE HIGHLY QUALIFIED PROFESSIONALS, THAT MANY OTHERS WERE SKILLED MIDDLE LEVEL MANAGERS AND TECHNICIANS WITHOUT WHOM NO ECONOMY CAN FUNCTION AND NO DEVELOPING ECONOMY CAN MAKE PROGRESS. CONCLUDED THIS SEGMENT WITH SUGGESTION THAT GIRM MIGHT FOR THESE REASONS DISCOVER A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THIS PARTICULAR GROUP OF REFUGEES. THROUGHOUT PRESENTATION I STRESSED HUMAN DIMENSION OF PROBLEM AND PRESSING NEED FOR RESPONSE ON HUMANITARIAN PLANE BY ALL COUNTRIES OF WORLD.

2. BRAHAM LISTENED ATTENTIVELY. AT CONCLUSION OF PRESENTATION, HE RESPONDED THAT USG MUST CERTAINLY HAVE NO MISAPPREHENSIONS THAT GIRM AND USG WERE IN TOTAL DISAGREEMENT OVER VIET NAM; THAT HE WOULD REPORT US DEMARCHE TO HIS COLLEAGUES IN GIRM; AND THAT IN DOING SO HE WOULD
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EMPHASIZE HUMAN DIMENSION RATHER THAN POLITICAL ASPECT

OF REFUGEE PROBLEM. HE THEN DECLARED HE WOULD CONTACT ME IF HIS GOVERNMENT DECIDED TO PURSUE HUMANITARIAN ASPECT OF QUESTION.

3. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT GIRM WILL RESPOND AFFIRMATIVELY TO US APPROACH FOR SIGNIFICANT CULTURAL AS WELL AS POLITICAL REASONS. (INDEED I WAS MILDLY SURPRISED THAT ACTING MINISTER WAS AS FORTHCOMING AS HE WAS.) GIRM IS ALREADY FACED WITH FUNDAMENTAL ETHNIC AND TRIBAL CLEAVAGES. CONSCIOUS CREATION OF STILL ANOTHER DISTINCT AND IN ALL PROBABILITY UNASSIMILABLE ETHNIC GROUPING (GIVEN DYNAMICS OF MAURITANIAN SOCIETY) IS THEREFORE NOT RPT NOT PARTICULARLY ATTRACTIVE STEP WHATEVER ADVANTAGES THERE MIGHT BE IN INTRODUCTION OF SKILLED PROFESSIONAL AND MIDDLE-MANAGEMENT CADRES. BUT WITHOUT QUESTION, BIGGEST IMPEDIMENT IS POLITICAL. GIRM LONG AGO IDENTIFIED WITH SOUTH-EAST ASIAN "LIBERATION GROUPS", AND HAS VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED THEM, INTELLECTUALLY AND EMOTIONALLY, AGAINST GOVERNMENTS OF SOUTH VIET NAM AND CAMBODIA. PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH MADE HIS AND GIRM'S POSITION CLEAR ONCE AGAIN AT AIRPORT ARRIVAL CEREMONY APRIL 28 UPON HIS RETURN FROM TOGO. AFTER PERFUNCTORILY GREETING ASSEMBLED AMBASSADORS, PRESIDENT PAUSED FOR SEVERAL MINUTES WITH NORTH VIET NAMESE, CAMBODIAN, AND VIET CONG REPS. HE WARMLY CONGRATULATED THEM ON THEIR POLITICAL AND MILITARY "VICTORY", AND OBSERVED WITH FEELING THAT MAURITANIANS WERE PARTICULARLY PLEASED "BECAUSE YOUR STRUGGLE HAS BEEN OUR STRUGGLE". UPON RETURNING TO EMBASSY AFTER MEETING WITH ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER, I LEARNED PRESIDENT HAD JUST DESPATCHED FULSOME TELEGRAM OF "THE WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS" TO CHAIRMAN VIET CONG CENTRAL COMMITTEE ON OCCASION OF FALL OF SIGON EXPRESSING "GREATEST JOY, ADMIRATION AND PROFOUND RESPECT" ON "MAGNIFICENT VICTORY" OF "HEROIC REVOLUTIONARY FORCES", AND ASSURING HIM OF "INDESTRUCTIBLE SUPPORT" OF MAURITANIAN PEOPLE. HANDYSIDE

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